

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A frame comprising:
an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension extending inwardly; and
an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member,
wherein the outer frame member and the inner frame member are friction stir welded together with the edge of the extension of the outer frame member abutted against the edge of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

2. (Withdrawn) The frame of claim 1, wherein the inner frame member is formed of two or more frame members friction stir welded together with one abutted against another.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a frame, comprising the steps of:

preparing an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension of extending inwardly, the outer frame member being formed to have an elongate shape and being curved, said extension having a top surface, a bottom surface and an inner curved edge surface;

preparing an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member, the inner frame member being formed to have an

elongate shape and being curved in accordance with the shape of the ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal direction of the outer frame member, said flat portion having an upper surface, a lower surface and an outer curved edge surface; and

friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member along a curve on a seam formed between the outer curved edge surface and the inner curved edge surface with the inner curved edge surface of the extension of the outer frame member abutted against the outer curved edge surface of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

4. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, wherein the step of preparing an inner frame member comprises the step of frictional stir welding two or more frame members with one abutted against another.

5. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer and inner frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.

6. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 4, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of machining the weld.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of forming cutaways or ~~holds~~ holes in the ~~weld~~ frame.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, wherein the inner frame member has a L-shaped section.